

Remarks/Arguments

No claims have been amended or cancelled by this response. Claims 8-20, 22, 23 and 25-27 are pending in this application.

As a preliminary matter, it is noted that the Office Action Summary page of the Office Action dated October 30, 2008, indicates that the action is final. The rejection made in this Office Action is a new rejection, and there were no changes made to the claims in the previous response filed on August 13. Accordingly, since this is a new rejection that was not necessitated by changes to the claims, it should not have been a final rejection. During a telephone conversation on December 4 with Examiner Bharadwaj, it was agreed that the action should not have been a final action and that corrective action will be done by the PTO.

Claims 8-20, 22, 23, and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office Action contends that the term "print resolution characteristic" has not been defined in the specification, and it is not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art as to which characteristics are being considered when the applicant claims "selected print resolution characteristic." Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed towards paragraphs [0027] – [0031] of the specification, which are reproduced below.

[0027] Fig. 2 is a flow chart that illustrates a process that may be performed by the processing and control block 26 of the printing apparatus 20. The process of Fig. 2 begins with a step 40 in which the processing and control block 26 selects a resolution characteristic to be employed in printing some or all of an indicium. The resolution characteristic may be represented, for example, by a horizontal resolution factor and a vertical resolution factor. For example, the print element 22 may be capable of printing with a certain maximum resolution (maximum dots per inch or dpi) in the horizontal and vertical directions. The maximum vertical resolution is limited by the size of the print head, while the maximum horizontal resolution is

based upon the system design. The horizontal resolution factor may indicate a degree to which the actual horizontal resolution to be employed in printing the indicia or portion thereof is to be increased, whereas the vertical resolution factor may indicate a degree to which the actual vertical resolution to be employed in printing the indicia or indicia portion is to be increased.

[0028] The expression “HxVy” may be taken as an indication of a resolution characteristic of a printed image based on a source image bit map selected by the processing and control block 26, where “Hx” represents a horizontal resolution factor, i.e., transformation of each pixel in a horizontal direction, and “Vy” represents a vertical resolution factor, i.e., transformation of each pixel in a vertical direction. Thus, the expression “H1V1” indicates a resolution characteristic in which each pixel of the printed image corresponds to a pixel of the source image bit map. The expression “H2V1” indicates a resolution characteristic of the printed image in which the pixels in the horizontal direction are increased by a factor of two, while there is no change to the pixels of the source image in the vertical direction. The expression “H1V2” indicates a resolution characteristic of the printed image in which the pixels of the source image are increased in the vertical direction by a factor of two, while there is no change to the pixels in the horizontal direction. The expression “H2V2” indicates a resolution characteristic of the printed image in which each pixel is increased in both the horizontal and vertical direction by a factor of two.

[0029] In some embodiments, the postage indicia printing apparatus 20 may be programmed to select only from among the four resolution characteristics H1V1, H2V1, H1V2 and H2V2. In other embodiments, the horizontal and/or vertical resolutions may be varied by factors other than two, and the number of potential choices of resolution characteristics may be greater than four. In still other embodiments, the number of potential choices of resolution characteristics may be less than four. In addition, in some embodiments the number of potential choices of resolution characteristics may be four although the possible degree of increase of horizontal and/or vertical resolution may be other than by a factor of two.

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These paragraphs provide a clear description of a print resolution characteristic in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are now in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/Brian A. Lemm/
Brian A. Lemm
Reg. No. 43,748
Attorney of Record
Telephone (203) 924-3836

PITNEY BOWES INC.
Intellectual Property and
Technology Law Department
35 Waterview Drive
P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, CT 06484-8000